

REMARKS:

Claims 6 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 (2d) as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Applicant has now modified claims 6 and 12 to remove the mark "Delrin" and believes that claims 6 and 12 should now be definite under §112. Accordingly, applicant requests that the §112 rejection now be withdrawn.

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bernardi et al. Claims 1-4 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Findlay et al. Claims 6 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bernardi et al. Claims 10 and 14-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Faylor et al in view of Bernardi et al.

Applicant has reviewed the prior art of record namely Bernardi, Findlay and Faylor and has modified his claims in order to overcome the prior art references.

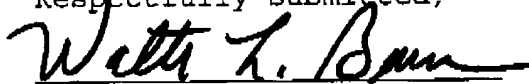
Specifically, applicant's valve has a selectively rotatable spool which defines grooves for water passage. In addition, applicant has a plurality of stationary o-rings mounted in the housing. The grooves allow the water to pass "beneath" the o-rings when the o-rings contact the grooves as a result of spool

rotation and movement. Otherwise the ungrooved spool surface contacts the o-ring which prevents fluid flow. The prior art references show lands and grooves such as land 88 of Findlay in its control valve. Bernardi teaches a series of "o" and "d-shaped" rings which are used to stop water flow. However, the prior art does not show a spool having a series of grooves for water passage beneath o-rings for selective spool movement for water diversion.

Thus, based on the modifications made to applicant's claims, applicant believes that all claims are now specific under §112 and are not anticipated under §102 or obviated under §103 whether such art such as Bernardi, Findlay and Faylor are considered severally or in combination. Claim allowance is therefore earnestly solicited at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner For Patents, Mail Stop Non Fee Amendment, Group Art Unit 1724, Attention: Examiner Ivars C. Cintins (9 pages including cover letter) to Fax No. (703) 872-9310 on this 5th day of Aug. 2003.


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